

LIBERALS IN PITIFUL PLIGHT

MEASURES FIASCO, THEY FEAR TO APPEAL TO THE VOTERS.

Verence Threatened on the Liber Interests—Religious Versus Secular Education—The Queen's Age and Her Book—Losing Dead Men's Wealth.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 5.—The situation in which the British Government finds itself at the present moment is almost pitiful. The Government would stand or fall, has been ignominiously rejected by the House of Lords, the education bill has been withdrawn as hopeless in its first stages and to other contentious measure stands any chance of enactment.

Another by-election this week demonstrated that the Liberal party has completely lost the confidence of the country. What remains for any self-respecting politician to do under such circumstances but resign? The Cabinet debated this question at two meetings yesterday. It is an open secret that Lord Morley and Lord Crewe advocated the immediate dissolution of Parliament, but most of the younger members opposed this course. Premier Asquith's attitude has not been disclosed.

Those who advocate an immediate general election argue that it is demanded both by the necessities of the situation and by political expediency. It is true enough that the Unionists would be embarrassed by a return to power at the present moment. There has been much negotiation going on within the Unionist party on the details of a new fiscal policy and Mr. Balfour does not wish to return to power until a better understanding has been reached among his followers regarding important duties, to which the Conservatives must turn for the bulk of the fresh taxation needed to meet the great deficit which the present Government has piled up.

The Liberals made a tactical mistake in not going to the country last year when there would have been some chance of success, whereas now there is none. There are one or two other motives besides the sweets of office which induce them to hold on. They want revenge on the liquor trade in the next budget, when they will make a big increase in the cost of all licenses and the Lords will be unable to interfere.

So the indications are that there will not be a general election before the summer. Even then it may be decided to cling to office a little longer at the inevitable cost of an increased measure of defeat.

EDUCATION BILL FIASCO. The withdrawal of the stillborn education bill, which places the Government in such an ignominious position, was due more to the Government's own party than to the opposition. The bill was heralded as a compromise, a preliminary but undoubtedly too hasty agreement was reached between the Archbishop of Canterbury and other Church leaders and some of the most powerful leaders among the Nonconformists. For a moment there were strong hopes that the bill would survive, but when the general principles on which the agreement had been reached were reduced to details in the actual bill the revolt on either side was immediate.

The Government affects to place the whole responsibility for this on the Church party, which instead of an annual grant of 80 shillings (\$12.50) per child, proposed a bill for schools "contracting out" and demanded 57 shillings (\$14.25) as the minimum which would enable their efficient running. To grant this, the Government declared, would make "contracting out" the rule instead of the exception and would thus prevent the desired establishment of one national scheme of education throughout the country.

But what in reality chiefly defeated the bill was the bitter opposition of the rank and file of the Liberal party to the "right of entry" clause, which gave denominationalists the right to give religious instruction at their own expense for one hour twice a week in school time. A large and powerful group of Liberals have declared war on any bill which allows the "right of entry," and the Government did not dare attempt to force the bill on them.

RELIGION VS. SECULARITY.

A true compromise on religious differences must always be most difficult, and for the present certainly it seems impossible in this country, which is still trying to blink at the fact that the real struggle is not between denominations but on the question of religion versus purely secular State education. Elementary education in the United Kingdom now remains in a state of chaos, which reduced the editor of Whitaker's Almanack of 1908 in presenting brief summaries on the various educational systems of the world to the declaration: "It is impossible to draft a similar account for the United Kingdom, as there is no 'system' to epitomize."

The most recent statistics show that there are 18,652 voluntary schools in England and Wales, of which 11,418 are of the Church of England and 6,800 are council schools. All have to comply to a certain extent with the regulations of the Board of Education. But there is a network of regulations, a variety of local authorities and a multiplicity of arrangements for representation of these latter on every council, which fully justify the lament of the editor of Whitaker's.

INTERNATIONAL DIVORCE TANGLE.

A British Magistrate seldom has such a marriage tangle to consider as that which was put up to a Lambeth Justice yesterday when Mrs. Alfred Gillingham summoned her husband for desertion. It seems that the wife, who was married to Gillingham in England in 1902, went to the United States, where she obtained a divorce and married a man named Butler, who later on shot himself. Then she married a man named Wyllie in the United States, but afterward left him and returned to England. Here her divorce from Gillingham was declared invalid. The Court ordered Gillingham to pay her five shillings a week.

HER MAJESTY.

One of the very few society writers who write from within society says: "I hear that the Queen, whose sixty-fourth birthday occurred on December 1, has suddenly become conscious of her age. Up to now she has looked marvellously young and has not only comforted herself in accordance but has felt as she looked. All of a sudden middle life seems to have swept upon her, and she was most out of sorts on her birthday. She had a very long talk with a clerical friend and left the interview with streaming eyes. Her bearing has sensibly improved under the touch of a specialist. Every care has been taken to prevent her seeing any of the printed expostulations regarding her book of photographs.

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which was recently put on sale for charity and which is affecting injuriously the sale of the rest of the books of the day. In a democratic age it is curious to note that the letters of the late Queen and the camera of the present one have proved to be incomparably better sellers than the literary works of the year.

CARRIE MINUS HER AXE.

The British public has heard with a keen sense of injustice that Carrie Nation did not bring her axe with her. America say, might just as well send a Wild West show without Buffalo Bill as Carrie without her axe. Carrie commenced operations at Dundee with a slight mistake. Entering her first restaurant she asked the proprietor:

"Young man do you sell drink here?" The proprietor, who did not recognize Carrie, replied:

"No ma'am, this is a temperance house, but you can get what you want next door."

LOOTING BIG ESTATES.

The death of Harry Barnato, whose estate is estimated at \$25,000,000, is a fortunate windfall which is much needed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Barnato's famous death duties laid a heavy toll on big estates, but the finance act of 1907 was merciless regarding these big fortunes. Indeed the complaint that it approaches confiscation seems justified when it is realized that Barnato's estate in one way or another will be mulcted to the extent of nearly one-fifth.

The death duties will amount to \$3,500,000, being 10 per cent. on the first million sterling, and in case of estates of three million sterling and upward, 15 per cent. on the remainder. The legacy duty and succession duty will amount to some \$1,000,000 or so. The late Lord Glenesk's estate will make another large contribution to the public funds. His income from the Morning Post is believed to have been from \$300,000 to \$400,000 a year.

The outcome of the serious illness of the young Duke of Westminster from the point of view of the Westminister estate is of vital importance. It was stated at the time of the old Duke's death that the vast estate would be reduced measurably and in the distance to bankruptcy if his successor died within a few years.

London's consumption of the British mint's unwieldy copper coinage is so great that there is frequently a shortage, especially since the introduction of the penny in the slot gas meters and other automatic machines. At the Christmas season the demand increases \$25,000 worth, which gradually increases to \$100,000.

To meet the difficulty a London clearing house for coppers is being organized. A number of banks have already agreed to pay it a penny in the pound on all coppers supplied and private firms will pay two pence. Large firms often order as much as \$10,000 worth of coppers for the rush during Christmas week.

One of the large takers of coppers handles \$40,000 worth per year which he supplies to customers at a poundage of two pence.

Old Circus Performer Dead.

Funeral services were held last evening for Benjamin Stevens, a circus performer and acrobat of the old school, at his late home, 824 Clifton place, Brooklyn. He was in his seventy-eighth year, and more than half his life had been spent in the circus business. He is survived by his son, George W. Stevens, a letter carrier in Manhattan.

The Weather.

The disturbance which covered the Lake regions and central States for Friday moved northeastward and was off the Nova Scotia coast yesterday.

It caused snow generally in the Lake regions and eastward in Pennsylvania, New York and New England.

Snow was falling in the Dakotas and northern Rocky Mountain States and rain at a few points west of the Rocky Mountains, due to a depression central over New Mexico.

Over the central valleys the pressure was high, causing cold weather in the Lake regions, Ohio Valley, Mississippi Valley and Texas, and in western New York, Pennsylvania and New England.

In the middle and east Gulf States, the upper Tennessee Valley and along the Atlantic coast it was warmer, as it was in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska and westward.

DISMISS TALKING ADMIRAL.

France's Simple Way of Dealing With Naval Inefficiency.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. PARIS, Dec. 5.—At a meeting of the Cabinet this morning it was decided to deprive Rear Admiral Paul Louis Germinet of the command of the Mediterranean Squadron.

The reason for Admiral Germinet's dismissal arose when a Toulon newspaper recently stated that the battleships of the French navy carried supplies sufficient for three hours' fight only, and that if they returned to any of the ports they would find the stores and ammunition extremely defective. Rear-Admiral Germinet was interviewed on this revelation and confirmed the statements.

Premier Clemenceau summoned Germinet to Paris, where he told him that he ought to remember that there were men aboard the battleships as well as guns. The lecture was severe, during the course of which Clemenceau said that an officer should do nothing or say nothing that would diminish the confidence on the part of the fighting men.

GERMANY HAS NO NEW TREATY.

In 1906 She Signed With Japan an Agreement Similar to Recent U. S. Notes.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. BERLIN, Dec. 5.—The Shanghai despatches of yesterday in regard to an agreement between Germany and Japan similar to that between the United States and Japan in regard to the far East were brought to the attention of the Foreign Office to-day. The officials pointed out that such an agreement was entirely unnecessary because on October 31, 1900, Japan joined the Anglo-German agreement of October 16 of the same year. This agreement contains almost the identical terms of the recently published American-Japanese notes.

FIRE IN PORTO RICO.

\$100,000 Loss in Destruction of Premises at Ponce—\$200,000 Damage at Guadalupe.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. SAN JUAN, P. R., Dec. 5.—A fire at Ponce destroyed this morning the business premises of Wanzelius & Oliver. The cause of the fire is unknown. The stock and buildings were valued at \$100,000. They were insured for \$60,000. Another fire in Guadalupe entailed a loss of \$20,000; no insurance.

MORE POMPEIIAN DELVING.

Italian Government to Acquire New Plot of Land for Excavation.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. ROME, Dec. 5.—The Minister of Instruction has drafted a special law authorizing the expropriation of a plot of land in the neighborhood of Pompeii valued at \$35,000 for the continuation of the excavations. The law will be voted next February. It implies that the excavations of Herodianum will be abandoned.

CROSS FOR KING OF ITALY.

For Services to France—Presented by American Humanitarian Society.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. ROME, Dec. 5.—Mr. Griseom, the American Ambassador, to-day presented to King Victor Emmanuel the American Cross of Honor granted by the Humanitarian Society for work in connection with the maintenance of peace.

Reception Hosts to Bellevue.

More than a thousand patients in the various wards of Bellevue Hospital were made happy last night by the generous gift of Miss Sylvia Holt, daughter of Judge George C. Holt of the United States Federal court. Miss Holt made her debut yesterday afternoon at her home at 40 East Twenty-fifth street and more than 2,000 roses were ordered for the decorations. After the reception Miss Holt called up "Right Superintendent" McCall of Bellevue. Pretty soon two wagons loaded with roses returned from the Holt residence and soon after messengers were busy throughout the hospital distributing the roses to the wards.

Carrier of Government Coal Missing.

The four masted iron bark Fort George, called also a "shipentine," which sailed from this port on July 26 with a cargo of coal for the naval station at Honolulu, is more than a month overdue there, and reinsurance is sought on her. Nothing has been heard of her since she was spoken in the south Atlantic on August 27. She is commanded by Capt. James Fullerton and has a crew of nineteen men, including two Japanese and a dozen Scandinavians. She is British built, but owned by the Matson Navigation Company of San Francisco. If she is lost she will be the third sailing vessel chartered to carry coal for the Government that has gone to Davy Jones.

Dinner to Chairman Parsons.

The Republican district leaders are arranging to give a dinner to Chairman Herbert Parsons of the Republican county committee on December 26 at the Republican Club. Invitations will be sent to all the Republican Congressmen, Senators, Assemblymen and Aldermen of the county. The committee in charge consists of Congressmen William B. Bennett, Collin H. Woodruff, Samuel Krulwich, Joseph T. Hackett and Joseph Robinson.

EMPEROR FIGHTS FOR PEACE.

ARCHDUKE AND AERIALTAL TRYING TO PROVOKE WAR.

Europe's Fate the Issue in Great Internal Struggle Being Waged—Austria Agrees Water Blockade—Child to Be Sent to Constantinople Order.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 5.—There is no diminution in the critical importance of the European political situation, but it has lost all "spectacular" interest. For the time being its developments are not disclosed and it appears to the outside world that nothing is being done. Such is far from being the fact, as will presently transpire. An important struggle is taking place in Austria and much hangs on the issue.

The writer discussed in these despatches a week ago an announcement which it was semi-officially declared—Emperor Francis Joseph would make at his jubilee to the effect that the details of his duties had been transferred to his heir, Francis Ferdinand. That announcement was not made. On the contrary Austria's veiled ultimatum to Turkey in the shape of the threatened withdrawal of her Ambassador was allowed to lapse and the aggressive attitude of the dual monarchy was considerably modified.

It is an open secret that this change is due to the Emperor's insistence on a more pacific policy. It is known also that the Emperor is greatly disturbed at the recent course of events. He is quoted as saying that he has been grossly deceived regarding the probable outcome of the schemes of his heir, Francis Ferdinand, and Foreign Minister Aehrenthal and their true significance.

He is completely opposed to war under any circumstances, but he finds himself under serious disabilities when he seeks to make his will effective. He has already relinquished so many of his prerogatives that he finds it almost impossible to resume full control. Friends of Baron Aehrenthal tell him he cannot remove or repudiate that aggressive individual without making the country ridiculous before the world, and the usual diplomatic principle is held up before him, according to which no nation under any circumstances must ever acknowledge itself to have been in the wrong.

It is a painful spectacle, this struggle between the righteous old monarch and the group of adventurers who are determined to have their own way by one means or another. They have yielded to him outwardly on the point of his insistence regarding Turkey, but they have begun fresh aggressive bluster toward the two Serbian States which have behaved with entire self-restraint in the last two or three weeks. Minister Aehrenthal's bellicose talk about "teaching them a lesson in the spring" is so obviously provocative and his theatrical increase of troops on the frontiers is so evidently designed to cause fresh irritation that it is generally feared that he is deliberately seeking to commit the aged sovereign to a dilemma for which no peaceful solution is possible.

Despite these sinister manoeuvres there is a growing confidence in diplomatic circles at large that peace will be maintained. The Turkish-Bulgarian relations are no longer threatening, and Serbia and Montenegro will remain quiet so long as a chance remains that a European conference will adjust their grievances. Austria is also beginning to find serious distraction in her internal situation. The riots at Prague this week were symptomatic and threatening. The proclamation of martial law has created a curious situation.

The conditions of the state of siege are strangely medieval. A court of first instance acts as a court of summary procedure with military protection. The executioner with his assistants must be within the precincts of the court. All persons arrested in flagrante delicto and all whose guilt appears to be evident must be brought before the summary court, a proceeding which must so far as possible be carried through without interruption. If the four Judges composing the court unanimously recognize the guilt of the accused sentence of death must be passed and executed within three hours. An appeal is not admissible, and only after one or more executions have given the necessary example can a tribunal admit extenuating circumstances inflicting cases and inflict penal servitude for terms of from five to twenty years.

PARIS, Dec. 5.—The Vienna correspondent of *La Petit Parisien* reports that the Austrian Foreign Minister, Baron von Aehrenthal, recently discussing the movement of the Austrian troops into Bosnia, said:

"These measures are taken in view of the belligerent attitude of Montenegro and Serbia. If these countries do not cease offering us provocation we intend to teach them a lesson in the coming spring."

The Vienna correspondent of *La Matin* reports that a military conference under the presidency of Emperor Francis Joseph met two days ago and discussed what measures would be taken in the event of an armed conflict.

It is stated that the Emperor signed in advance a general order for the mobilization of the Austrian forces to enable the troops to be sent to the frontier at a moment's notice.

It is also reported that the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the throne, is in favor of war, and that the German Emperor's visit to Vienna was for the purpose of considering measures to be taken in concert with Austria in the event of an Austro-Serbian conflict.

BIG AMHERST SALE PRICES.

Illuminated Thirteenth Century Manuscript Sold for \$25,250.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 5.—The sale of the library of Lord Amherst continued to-day. The "Graduale Romanum," an illuminated manuscript, which was in use in a German monastery as early as 1251, brought \$25,250.

The "Evangelia St. Lucie et St. Joannis," an ancient Greek manuscript, sold for \$1,500. Martin Frobenius's "Voyages of Discoveries for Finding of Passage to Cathaya by the Northwest," in three books, sold for \$1,575.

The sale of the second half of Lord Amherst's library begins on February 24 of next year.

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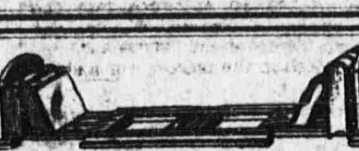
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MORE LAND FOR STANDARD OIL.

The Company Gets Riparian Rights for Its Plant at Linden, N. J.

ELIZABETH, N. J., Dec. 5.—The Standard Oil Company has bought for \$75,000 the riparian rights for a distance of nearly three quarters of a mile along the shore in the township of Linden, extending southerly from Horse's creek. For some time past the oil company has been trying to get the land from the State Riparian Board to complete one of the most valuable tracts of manufacturing property in the State. The price is approximately the same rate that the riparian board has sold other land in the same vicinity for, about \$25 a lineal foot.

It is understood that the company will begin at once a system of piers along the waterfront to carry on its shipping. It is a part of the same project for which the Linden road track was acquired a week ago. On one side of the extensive property the company will have wharfage and shipping privileges, and on the other side it will have the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad, making \$1,000 a ball tomorrow. The suit is for \$25,000.

HAS PHYSICIAN ARRESTED.

Salesman Says Dr. Curtis of Union Hill, N. J., Afflicted Wife's Affections.

Frank J. Richardson, recently of Union Hill, N. J., but now of 155 East Fifty-fifth street, New York, yesterday caused the arrest of Dr. Grant P. Curtis of 116 Palisade avenue, Union Hill, on the charge of alienating Mrs. Richardson's affections. Richardson, who is a travelling salesman, believes that Dr. Curtis was quite too intimate with his wife when he was attending her professionally. He therefore left her and preferred charges against the physician.

Dr. Curtis was arrested yesterday and taken to the Hudson county jail in Jersey City. He asserts his innocence. He will probably be released in 48 hours, ball tomorrow. The suit is for \$25,000.

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Fine broadcloth or English cheviot Suits, Directoire coat models with large revers, close fitting skirts; satin lined and interlined. Colors: smoke, catwaba, wistaria, black, navy or brown. All sizes. Value 39.50; at 25.00

Tailored Suits of fine broadcloth or cheviot, all long coat models in plain and trimmed effects. Value 25.00 to 30.00; at 19.50

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In Empire effects, tailored half fitted shapes, satin lined and interlined. 15.00, 19.50, 25.00, 29.50

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The lot includes many single pieces suitable for afternoon, evening or street wear, of fine broadcloth or silk lined voile, satin or messaline. In Princess or Empire effects. Values 30.00, 35.00 and 40.00; at 19.50

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